
SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE COLLEGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE COLLEGE OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND EXAMINE THE EXPANSION OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION THROUGHOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM.

1 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Constitution recognizes Hawaiian
2 as an official language of Hawaii and further recognizes that
3 study of the Hawaiian language should be promoted and protected
4 within the context of traditional and customary rights; and
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6 WHEREAS, in 1996, the Legislature identified "a need to
7 establish a center for excellence at the University of Hawaii at
8 Hilo campus that will conduct all its business in the Hawaiian
9 language, and that will serve as a focal point for the State's
10 efforts to revitalize the Hawaiian language through teacher
11 training, graduate study of Hawaiian, community outreach, and
12 planning for general education in Hawaiian for future
13 generations of Hawaiian speakers"; and
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15 WHEREAS, legislative determination of the importance of the
16 Hawaiian language in 1996 has led to further action being taken
17 by the Legislature in 1997, 2001, and 2006 to protect and expand
18 the role of the Hawaiian language in the State; and
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20 WHEREAS, legislative measures relating to the College of
21 Hawaiian Language include the establishment of a partnership
22 with the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the non-profit
23 organization, 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Inc., which allowed the College to
24 commence instruction without requiring additional funding from
25 the State; and
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27 WHEREAS, since being founded, the College of Hawaiian
28 Language has provided a preschool through twelfth grade
29 laboratory school, a teacher certification program, two Master's



1 degree programs, and a doctoral program, all conducted entirely
2 in the Hawaiian language; and
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4 WHEREAS, the College of Hawaiian Language's programs are
5 the first Native American language programs in the nation and
6 have drawn significant national and international attention; and
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8 WHEREAS, the College of Hawaiian Language's role extends
9 beyond academic programs and includes crucial resource support
10 to the Department of Education in meeting state constitutional
11 mandates relative to the promotion and use of the Hawaiian
12 language in state public and charter schools; and
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14 WHEREAS, the College of Hawaiian Language provides the
15 majority of teaching materials used in state public and charter
16 schools for teaching Hawaiian language, expanding contemporary
17 vocabulary in Hawaiian for instructional purposes in these
18 schools, providing an online dictionary and primary source
19 materials through the Ulukau online Hawaiian electronic library,
20 and providing other services including Hawaiian language
21 assessments, teacher in-service training, and parent workshops
22 crucial to the success of preschool through twelfth grade
23 education; and
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25 WHEREAS, the existing structure of the University of Hawaii
26 System, which mirrors the structure of English language medium
27 sized institutions of higher education in the other forty-nine
28 states, is not optimal for a state with two official languages;
29 and
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31 WHEREAS, international structural models exist that may be
32 adopted by the University of Hawaii System as a means to
33 maximize use of the College of Hawaiian Language; and
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35 WHEREAS, over the past several months the administration of
36 the College of Hawaiian Language, University of Hawaii at Hilo,
37 and University of Hawaii System have met to discuss how to
38 better organize the College of Hawaiian Language into a unique
39 model to expand services that meet the State's Hawaiian language
40 needs; and
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1 WHEREAS, at a meeting held on February 26, 2015, the
2 Director of the College of Hawaiian Language, Chancellor of the
3 University of Hawaii at Hilo, Vice President for Academic
4 Affairs of the University of Hawaii System, and President of the
5 University of Hawaii System agreed that a formal study is
6 necessary to determine how to restructure the College of
7 Hawaiian Language to better serve the needs of the State; and
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9 WHEREAS, after reviewing the history of the College of
10 Hawaiian Language as an entity established and codified in law
11 by the Legislature, it was determined that the Legislature
12 should take the lead in requesting and reviewing a formal study
13 to restructure the College of Hawaiian Language; now, therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth
16 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015,
17 that the University of Hawaii Office of the President and
18 College of Hawaiian Language are requested to establish a
19 working group to:
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- 21 (1) Conduct a study to determine how the College of
22 Hawaiian Language can be restructured to best promote
23 the expansion of Hawaiian language instruction and to
24 serve the needs of the State; and
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- 26 (2) Examine the expansion of Hawaiian language instruction
27 throughout the University of Hawaii System using the
28 College of Hawaiian Language as a base from which to
29 carry out the expansion; and
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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group research and
32 report to the Legislature:
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- 34 (1) The current structure and pedagogy of the College of
35 Hawaiian Language;
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- 37 (2) Recent and current trends in student-driven
38 initiatives to learn Hawaiian; and
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- 40 (3) Specific strategies to enhance and expedite Hawaiian
41 language instruction on the different University of



1 Hawaii campuses and throughout the University of
2 Hawaii System; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
5 to include:

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7 (1) The President of the University of Hawaii System, or
8 the President's designee;
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10 (2) The Vice President for Academic Affairs, or the Vice
11 President's designee;
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13 (3) The Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, or
14 the Chancellor's designee;
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16 (4) The Director of the College of Hawaiian Language, or
17 the Director's designee;
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19 (5) The Administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs,
20 or the Administrator's designee;
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22 (6) 'Ahahui 'Olelo Hawai'i;
23
24 (7) 'Aha Kauleo;
25
26 (8) 'Aha Pūnana Leo;
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28 (9) Kamehameha Schools;
29
30 (10) 'Ōiwi TV; and
31
32 (11) Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested
35 to report its findings and recommendations, including any
36 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
37 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and
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39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group dissolve on
40 June 30, 2016; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the Office of
3 Hawaiian Affairs, Chairperson of the Board of Regents of the
4 University of Hawaii, President of the University of Hawaii
5 System, Vice President of Academic Affairs of the University of
6 Hawaii System, Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo,
7 Director of the College of Hawaiian Language, 'Ahahui 'Olelo
8 Hawai'i, 'Aha Kauleo, 'Aha Pūnana Leo, Kamehameha Schools, 'Ōiwi
9 TV, and Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs.

